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follows: In making the inspection of a vessel, the bill of health and clinical record of all cases treated during the voyage, crew and passengers' lists and manifests, and when necessary, the ships' log shall be examined. The crew and passengers shall be mustered and examined and compared with the lists and manifests, and any discrepancies investigated. When a freight manifest shows that rags and other articles of this class are carried by the vessel, a certificate of disinfection, signed by a United States consul or a medical officer of the United States, shall be exhibited and compared with same.

If no certificate of disinfection is produced, the collector of customs at the port of entry shall be notified of same by the quarantine officer. The collector of customs shall then hold such consignment in a designated place separate from other freight pending the arrival of the certificate of disinfection; and in the event of its nonarrival, the articles shall be disinfected as hereinbefore prescribed, or shall be returned by the common carrier conveying same.

ARTICLE XII—*Canadian and Mexican frontiers.*

The following paragraph is hereby added to Article XII, relating to rags arriving at ports on the Canadian frontier:

Paragraph 12. Rags gathered and baled in Canada, accompanied by affidavits that the ports or places where collected or handled were free from quarantinable disease for thirty days prior to shipment, may be admitted to entry; but rags from foreign ports shipped through Canada shall not be admitted to entry, unless they are accompanied by a certificate of a United States consul or medical officer of the United States that they have been disinfected in accordance with the United States quarantine regulations.

Foreign rags, not originating in Canada, but shipped through Canada to ports in the United States, will not be admitted to entry by collectors of customs unless accompanied by the above-named certificate, or until after they have been unbaled and disinfected as required by the United States quarantine regulations.

Approved: WALTER WYMAN,
Supervising Surgeon-General M. H. S.
O. L. SPAULDING, *Acting Secretary.*

Plague on the island of Cozumel, Mexico.

FEBRUARY 28, 1900.

Sometime ago the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service addressed letters to certain quarantine officers directing them to ascertain what possible danger there might be of infection of bubonic plague reaching the United States through Mexico. To-day he received information that the plague exists, and has existed probably for several weeks in the Island of Cozumel, which is off the east coast of Yucatan,

Mexico. He has cabled for further information, and has meantime notified all the quarantine officers in the United States, Cuba, and Porto Rico. Number of cases not stated. It is stated that the disease was brought to Cozumel from Brazil. More definite information is being sought.

Precautions against plague—(Continued from last issue).

LETTERS URGING FREE USE OF ANTIPEST SERUM.

FEBRUARY 24, 1900.

SIR: The Bureau is in receipt of certain newspaper clippings relative to the illness and death by plague of a Mr. Robertson and his treatment by antipest serum. This treatment, it would seem by the published accounts, was limited to the subcutaneous administration of two bottles or 40 c. c. of the serum.

Your attention is invited to Bureau letter of January 27, 1900 (M. J. R.), detailing the results of the experiences of Chalmette and Salimbini in the Oporto epidemic of plague, in which it is stated that much larger doses of the serum must be used than have heretofore been considered necessary; that from 160 to 200 c. c. may with advantage be used in the first forty-eight hours of the disease, and that from 20 to 40 c. c. of this amount should be given intravenously, etc.

You are requested to urge the authorities to follow these indications in the future use of the serum, as the Bureau is fully impressed with the value of the remedy as a curative agent, and is convinced of the innocuousness of the plan of treatment suggested.

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN,
Surgeon-General U. S. M. H. S.

Surg. D. A. CARMICHAEL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, Honolulu, Hawaii.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March, 1, 1900.*

SIR: You are hereby informed that there has been sent you to-day a box containing 250 vials of 20 c. c. each of antipest serum, the product of the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

You are informed that of this shipment 50 vials are to be considered as for your personal use, and that 200 should be placed at the service of the health authorities for use where it may seem most needed.

* * * * *

In regard to the use of this preventive and curative agent, your attention is particularly invited to the plague article and other publications made by the Bureau from time to time on the subject in the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS of the Service. Information recently received gives assurance that in Japan two outbreaks at least have recently been suppressed principally by the use of the serum. It should be employed in large doses for the treatment of actual cases of the disease, and the earlier the treatment is inaugurated the more favorable is the outlook for recovery.

In addition, it can be employed in doses of from 5 to 10 c. c. for immunizing all who have been directly exposed to the infection, which immunity will be conferred at once, and will probably endure for a period of at least fifteen days, during which time active sanitary measures can, of course, be taken looking to the improvement of sanitary and local conditions in the focus of the outbreak.